

MEETING SUMMARY

North Carolina National Park, Parkway and Forests Development Council

September 11, 2009

1:00 PM –3:00 PM

NCDENR Western Office

Swannanoa, NC

Council Members Present: Maxine Dalton, Eric Jenkins, Myrna Campbell, Nelda Holder, Patsy Lovedahl, Bob McCollum, Jason Love, Jonathon Douthit
Others Present: Judy Francis

Call to Order: Maxine Dalton called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

Welcome and Introductions: The Council members present introduced themselves and stated brief descriptions about why they are involved with the Council.

Approval of Summary from June 24, 2009 Joint Meeting: Not all members had reviewed the meeting summary that was e-mailed out previously. This item will be placed on the next meeting agenda.

Consider Bob McCollum as an Ex-Officio Member: Maxine stated that at the 2007 retreat the Council agreed that it would be valuable to have up to 3 ex-officio members. Tom Massie has been a valuable ex-officio member. Bob McCollum has expressed an interest in being an ex-officio member also. He was a regular member of the Council for many years and knows much about the history and past activities of the organization. Nelda Holder made a motion to approve Bob McCollum as an ex-officio member. Patsy Lovedahl seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

Legislative Update: Judy Francis provided the Council with handouts listing brief descriptions of the environmental actions from the recently recessed legislative session. She described the Mountain Resources Commission and explained that the members of the Commission will be appointed by the House, Senate, and Governor. Several seats on the Commission are “by right” and not subject to appointment. The Council has one of these seats and will need to choose a member to represent them. She said it would be appropriate for Maxine, in her role as Chair, to represent the Council in that capacity. Maxine said she would be willing to fill that responsibility. Jonathon Douthit made a motion to approve Maxine Dalton as the Council’s representative on the Mountain Resources Commission. The motion was seconded by Myrna Campbell and approved unanimously.

Discussion of Mission Statement: Maxine then led a discussion about the Council mission statement in response to a request by Jonathon Douthit. Judy Francis provided each member with a copy of the Council’s mission statement and enabling legislation. Maxine said she thought the Council’s mission was to provide a forum for citizens from counties with public land within their jurisdiction to serve as a bridge between

communities and agencies as communicators and educators. There is power in personal contacts. The members help maintain relationships in the community regarding public lands issues. Judy Francis agreed and said that public agencies include local, state, and federal governments. She thought another role of the Council is to advocate for legislation and funding. Myrna Campbell said the Council should provide legislative support and information for decision-makers. Patsy Lovedahl emphasized communication with various agencies. Bob McCollum said the Council was originally focused on tourism and was housed in the Commerce Department. An example of an early Council priority was getting the Oconoluftee Visitor Center. That is why the word “development” is in the Council’s title, but now the emphasis has changed. He recommended that the Council change its title because the name is too long and it’s confusing. He recommended that the word “development” be taken out. General discussion about encouraging meeting attendance from state agencies as well as federal partners.

Action Item: Council members to review current mission statement. Discuss any proposed amendments and possible name changes at next meeting. Nelda Holder and Jason Love agreed to come up with some suggested names for the Council’s consideration.

Strategic Plan Update: Maxine led a review of the Council’s existing strategic plan and objectives. Members eliminated items that had already been accomplished and added to priorities. See attached spreadsheet for specific deletions and additions.

Action Item: Council members to review draft strategic Goals & Objectives prior to approval at next meeting.

Other Business: Jonathon Douthit provided the Council with an update on the North Shore Road issue. He asked the Council to draft a letter to the Secretary of the Interior urging funding of the settlement amount and asking that a department-level negotiator be sent to continue discussions with the other signatories to the agreement. There was consensus that this letter should be sent. Judy Francis will draft a letter for Maxine’s review and signature regarding this matter.

Myrna Campbell volunteered to research the question of where the \$6 down payment to Swain County appropriated in the 2008 budget now resides.

Judy Francis agreed to provide a copy of the state park economic impact study to Council Members.

Next Meeting: November 6, 2009. Topic of Meeting: Public / Private Lands Interface – Judy Francis will ask agencies to come prepared to discuss issues relevant to this topic.

The Council also requested a speaker from the state Insurance Commissioner’s office to tell us about incentives for homeowners adjacent to public lands to incorporate fire prevention features into their homes and landscapes. Myrna Campbell will follow up on this.

Adjourn: There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.